

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Munks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,253) in view of Nakao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,434). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, claim 1 recites, in part, a wavelength stabilization module that includes a light-receiving element array for receiving the laser beam passing through a filter. The light-receiving element array recited in claim 1 includes a plurality of elements that detect different wavelengths. As admitted in the Office Action on page 2, Munks fails to teach a light element receiving array. The Office Action relies on Nakao as allegedly teaching this feature. Nakao discloses a light receiving unit 7 that includes light receiving elements 13 and 13' (See, for example, Figures 7 and 17). Nakao does not teach or suggest that the elements 13 and 13' detect different wavelengths, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, no combination of Munks and Nakao teach or suggest a wavelength stabilization module that includes a light-receiving element array with a plurality of elements that detect different wavelengths, as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 3-7 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 2 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Munks in view of Nakao and further in view of Doerr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,275,317). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 8 is believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 because claim 8 also recites a light-receiving element array with elements that detect different wavelengths and because Doerr does not remedy the deficiencies of Munks and Nakao discussed above since Doerr fails to teach or suggest a light-receiving element array with elements that detect different wavelengths.

Claim 2 is believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of its dependence upon claim 1 and because Doerr does not remedy the deficiencies of Munks and Nakao discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 9 and 10 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 8 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 8 and because Doerr does not remedy the deficiencies of Munks and Nakao discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

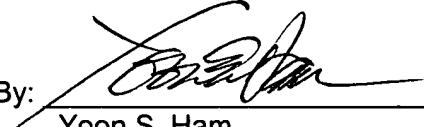
Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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